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RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA 3959

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 000404

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/HRS (AMY OSTERMEIER, GAYATRI PATEL, AND LYNN SICADE)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/20/2019

TAGS: PHUM SP PREL

SUBJECT: SPAIN WELCOMES U.S. HRC CANDIDACY AND EXPLAINS DURBAN II PARTICIPATION

REF: A. SECSTATE 31175
 1B. SECSTATE 36629

Classified By: ADCM William H. Duncan for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) April 3 Poloff informed Spanish MFA's Director of the Office of Human Rights Juan Duarte and Subdirector General for the UN Marcelino Cabanas of the U.S. intention to seek election to the UNHRC in 2009, requesting Spain's vote in favor of the United States in the May election. Post subsequently delivered the diplomatic note formally announcing the U.S. candidacy. Duarte responded that Spain welcomes the U.S. decision to re-engage and will likely vote in favor of the United States on May 12. He added that the GOS looks forward to coordinating closely with the United States on Council issues (specifically the application of the death penalty to minors in Iran and gender issues in Mexico) as it prepares for its own candidacy in 2010.

12. (C) On Durban II, Duarte said that Spain is pleased with the outcome and did not receive as much pressure from NGOs as Germany and the Netherlands, suggesting that it was extreme outside pressure that led to other member states' departure from the process. Duarte said that the GOS lamented the U.S. decision to boycott the review conference considering the progress made on the defamation of religion issue, and that Spain would most definitely attend.

CHACON